

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 were previously pending in this application. By this response, Applicant amends claims 1 and 3-8, cancels claims 2 and 12-17, and adds new claims 18-21. As a result, claims 1, 3-11, and 18-21 are pending with claims 1, 20, and 21 being independent claims.

Specification

In response to section 2 of the Office Action, appropriate corrections have been made to the informalities pointed out by the Examiner. Accordingly, withdrawal of these objections is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

In response to section 3-7 of the communication, appropriate corrections have been made to the informalities pointed out by the Examiner. Accordingly, withdrawal of these objections is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102

In response to section 8-9 of the communication, claim 1 has been amended to include additional features from original claim 2, and as a result, the original claim 2 is deleted. Claim 1 has been further amended to exclude two original features which contribute to new claim 18 and 19. In order to put dependent claims of claim 1 in clarity, the dependent claims have been amended accordingly.

In particular, the amended claim 1 recites:

determining, by a network access device, the subscriber location information when a subscriber accesses the network, wherein the subscriber location information comprises an identifier of the network access device, a slot number of the subscriber interface board, and a port number of a port of a subscriber interface board in the network access device;

converting, by the network access device, the subscriber location information into a code in an encoding format of a content of a field in a message sent from the subscriber; replacing, by the network access device, the content of the field in the message with the subscriber location information code, and transferring the message in the network communication system.

US 2004/0141468 (hereinafter referred to as Christensen) primarily relates to a method and system for mapping **original Media Access Control (MAC) addresses to unique locally administered virtual MAC addresses in an Ethernet network**. An access node uses an address mapping function to map each original MAC address to one of a plurality of locally administered virtual MAC addresses, and vice versa. The six most significant bits of the first octet of the address are used to define a domain for the address, and the second-least significant bit of the first octet indicates that the address is a locally administered MAC address. The second and third octets of the address are used to indicate a unit-specific use. The last three octets of the address indicate an organizationally assigned unit-unique MAC address. Additional address mapping functions may map original addresses from different sources onto the same Ethernet network while maintaining the uniqueness of each virtual MAC address.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the amended claim 1 differs from Christensen for at least the following reasons.

Firstly, in the method of the amended claim 1, the subscriber location information is converted into a code whose encoding format is the same as a content of a field in a message sent from the subscriber. However, in Christensen the original Media Access Control addresses are mapped to unique locally administered virtual MAC addresses.

Secondly, in the method of the amended claim 1, the subscriber location information comprises an identifier of the network access device, a slot number of the subscriber interface board, and a port number of a port of a subscriber interface board in the network access device. The Applicant notes

that the subscriber location information in the amended claim 1 comprises location information, for example, a slot number of the subscriber interface board. However, Christensen is only for mapping original MAC address to Virtual MAC addresses.

Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102 is overcome. Additionally, the rejection of claims 3-11, which depend from claim 1, are overcome for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

In response to section 11 of the communication, the Applicant believes that there would have been no motivation for one of ordinary skill in the art to combine elements of Christensen and Rai (US 6675208).

In response to section 12 of the communication, the Applicant believes that there would have been no motivation for one of ordinary skill in the art to combine elements of Christensen and Reuss (US 20030165230 A1).

Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that all relevant claims are non-obvious.

Other Amendments

Additional features of original dependent claim 10 are not disclosed in their present form in any of the prior art documents, therefore the Applicant has added a new independent claim 20 to include all the features of the original claim 10, and respectfully submits that the new claim 20 is novel.

New added claim 21 includes technical features similar to claim 1, for the above reasons, the new claim 21 is also novel. Support for the amendment can be found in the original application.

Conclusion

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of objections and rejections have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. The Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding objections and rejections.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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